

Governor's Roundtables for Families and Children

- I. **Overall Purpose:** To promote the well-being of Idaho's families and children by providing a venue to convene, communicate, educate and network around issues that affect our families and children. Roundtables provide participants with information about "promising practices", resources, networking opportunities and technical assistance.
- II. **History:** In his 1999 inaugural address Governor Kempthorne issued a "*call to arms*". He went beyond political rhetoric and declared this the Generation of the Child. One of his most widely recognized quotes is, "if you seek the promise of a bright future, look into the eyes of a child," has helped mobilize people and his commitment to our youngest citizens has led Idaho to a new place where families and children are an issue of concern for all citizens. Furthermore, he has taken steps to ensure that Idaho continues to be the best place to live and raise a family. The Governor's Roundtables for Families and Children are one tool he has provided to Idaho's communities. The Roundtables provide a model for any size community to use. They are not directive, but collaborative in nature. Roundtables also provide a venue to bring the work of the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children (GCCFC) to the communities. It also allows them to generate ideas and decide how to build their own process to address issues of importance. In this model responsibility is shared among the state and regional partners. Regional partners pull together leadership to plan their roundtable, with the guidance of the Governor's Generation of the Child team. Participants are provided with a framework that inspires people to make an investment. Follow-up continues throughout the year through resource-sharing such as small grants from the Governor's community collaboration funds. The regional roundtable model works in all sizes of communities, from Boise to Sandpoint.
- III. **Format:**
 - a. **Biennial State Format:** A two-day event with prominent national speakers (e.g. Mary Ann Solberg, Deputy Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy) provide the best resources, practices, and science available to help community leaders committed to making a difference at the grassroots level. Some years there has been a mix of breakouts, and keynotes, while other years the format has been larger facilitated sessions that are then broken into smaller groups (typically tables of 8-10 people).
 - b. **Biennial Regional Format:** A one-day event held in six regional locations with half the day devoted to the critical messages that impact all systems across the state and the other half of the day devoted to the critical messages in the local and/or regional area. The Governor typically provides the luncheon keynote. This format is beneficial because many of the topics being addressed have common threads and/or solutions, regardless of the issue. It also provides a venue for a multitude of various issues to be addressed and an understanding of how each issue affects/contributes to other issues. Regions can elect to host a youth event the evening before or the evening following the roundtable. These have proven to be very effective at creating opportunities to dialogue with youth on a variety of topics including asset building, education, drug and alcohol use, and possibilities for increased youth involvement in the community.
- IV. **Outcomes & Results:**
 - a. **State Outcomes & Results:** These are some of the key outcomes we've achieved at the state roundtables.

- i. Established the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children (GCCFC)
 - ii. Increased awareness of the GCCFC and its priorities, as well as communication strategies
 - iii. Identified needs and services across the state
 - iv. Increased awareness of the interconnected efforts that serve families and children in Idaho
 - v. Provided tools and resources to address various issues
 - vi. Encouraged responsibility for addressing family & child issues as individuals, families and communities
 - vii. Identified ways to participate in collaborative partnerships
- b. **Regional Outcomes & Results:** These are some of the key outcomes achieved at the regional level.
 - i. Provided an understanding of the Governor's vision, through the Generation of the Child.
 - ii. Continued to create a common framework and language for collaboration through the use of the KIDS Action Template
 - iii. Introduced and/or provided resources to help develop or enhance a community's capacity to serve the needs of families and children
 - iv. Provided training on the guidelines for faith-based and community organization partnerships with state agencies
 - v. Provided opportunities to network
 - vi. Provided opportunities for youth involvement and leadership
 - vii. Increased awareness of resources for families and children at the state, regional, and local levels
 - viii. Affirmed, empowered, and inspired participants
- c. **Partnerships:** Exceptional relationships have been developed with state agencies, colleges and universities, programs with "promising practices", non-profit organizations, early childhood educators, and others devoted to serving the needs of Idaho families and children. Working in partnership has increased collaboration efforts and has built relationships across systems by encouraging state agencies to work with non-profits, faith-based organizations, and others. It also has provided a platform for state agencies to demonstrate leadership and an environment that fosters communication.

V. Roundtable Themes:

- a. 1st State Roundtable: "Working Together for Families and Children"
- b. 2nd State Roundtable: "Linking Families-Children-Resources"
- c. 3rd Annual Regional Roundtables: "Building Community Partnerships"
- d. 4th Annual Regional Roundtables: "A Shared Sense of Community: Acknowledge the Past-Capture the Present-Envision the Future"
- e. 5th Annual State Roundtable: "Building Generations of Promise for Idaho- Bridges from Vision to Reality"